Discovery of Relativistic Outflow in the Seyfert Galaxy Ark 564

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ABSTRACT

We present Chandra high energy transmission grating spectra of the narrowline Seyfert-1 galaxy Ark 564. The spectrum shows numerous absorption lines which are well modeled with low velocity outflow components usually observed in Seyfert galaxies (Gupta et al. 2013). There are, however, some residual absorption lines which are not accounted for by low-velocity outflows. Here we present identifications of the strongest lines as $K\alpha$ transitions of OVII(two lines) and OVI at outflow velocities of $\sim 0.1c$. These lines are detected at 6.9σ , 6.2σ , and 4.7σ respectively and cannot be due to chance statistical fluctuations. Photoionization models with ultra-high velocity components improves the spectral fit significantly, providing further support for the presence of relativistic outflow in this source. Without knowing the location of the absorber, its mass and energy outflow rates cannot be well constrained; we find $E(outflow)/L_{bo}$ ranging from < 0.001% to 60% using different assumptions. This is the first time that absorption lines with ultra-high velocities are unambiguously detected in the soft X-ray band. The presence of outflows with relativistic velocities in AGNs with Seyfert-type luminosities is hard to understand and provides valuable constraints to models of AGN outflows.

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1. Introduction

There have been reports of ultra-high velocity outflows in the X-ray spectra of radioquiet AGNs and quasars. These outflows are identified through blue-shifted Fe xxv and/or Fe xxvI absorption lines (at rest-frame energies of 7-10 keV) from highly ionized gas ($log\xi =$ 3-6 erg s⁻¹), with column densities as large as $N_H = 10^{22} - 10^{24}$ cm⁻², and with relativistic velocities of 0.1c–0.3c (Pounds et al. 2003a;b, Tombesi et al. 2010, and references therein). The mass outflow rate of these high velocity outflows were comparable to the accretion rate and their kinetic energy was a significant fraction of the bolometric luminosity (Tombesi et al. 2012). These outflows can provide the effective feedback required by theoretical models of galaxy formation to solve a number of astrophysical problems ranging from cluster cooling flows to structures of galaxies.

Although high velocity outflows are detected in a large number of sources, in all the cases identification are based on Fe K-shell transitions which fall in a region of the spectrum where instrumental resolution is much lower than in the soft X-ray band. The significance of the absorption line detections is often questioned and with only a few lines observed, accurate parametrization of the photoionized plasma becomes difficult. While the observed transitions are from highly ionized gas ($log\xi = 3-9 \text{ ers s}^{-1}$), photoionization models predict that in such a plasma in addition to highly ionized iron, lighter elements should also be present, strongest of which are S, Si and O (e.g., Sim et al. 2010, Krongold et al. 2003). Absorption lines from these highly ionized elements lie in the soft X-ray band, so warm absorber signatures of relativistic outflows at soft X-rays should be present, but were never unambiguously observed until now (see §5.3 for existing evidence). For complete understanding of the properties of high velocity outflows it is necessary to detect transitions of other ions such as of O, Ne, Si and S as predicted by models.

In this paper, we report the serendipitous discovery of high velocity outflows in the soft X-ray band in Ark 564, identified during our detailed analysis of the *Chandra* archival data of this source (Gupta et al. 2013, hereafter Paper I).

Primary goal of Paper I was to self consistently analyze and model the grating spectra of typical ($V_{out} = 100 - 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) warm absorbers in Ark 564. Here we present the discovery of warm absorbers (WA) with ultra-high velocities.

2. Data and Spectral Analysis

Ark 564 is a bright, nearby (z = 0.024684), narrow-line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) galaxy, with luminosity of $L_{2-10 \ keV} = (2.4 - 2.8) \times 10^{43} \ {\rm ergs \ s^{-1}}$ (Turner et al. 2001, Matsumoto et al.

2004, Paper I). In Paper-I we have discussed the *Chandra* observation and data reduction of this source which we briefly summarize here. Ark 564 was observed with the *Chandra* High Energy Transmission Grating Spectrometer (HETGS) in 2008 in three separate exposures totaling 250 ks. We followed the standard procedure to extract spectra. We used the software package CIAO (Version 4.3) and calibration database CALDB (Version 4.4.2) developed by the *Chandra* X-ray center. We co-added the negative and positive first-order spectra and built the effective area files (ARFs) for each observation using the *fullgarf* CIAO script. The HETG-MEG spectra were analyzed using the CIAO fitting package *Sherpa*.

We fitted the spectra obtained with HETG-MEG and averaged the associated ARFs. We fitted the continuum with absorbed power law plus black body component and modeled all the statistically significant local absorption (z=0) features with Gaussian components. Further we used the photoionization model fitting code PHotoionized Absorption Spectral Engine (PHASE; Krongold et al. 2003), to fit the typical warm absorber features. The best fit model of intrinsic absorption requires two warm absorbers with two different ionization states ($logU=0.38\pm0.02$ and $logU=-1.3\pm0.13$), both with moderate outflow velocities ($\sim 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) and relatively low line of sight column densities ($\sim N_H=10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$). For detailed spectral analysis and best fit parameters, we refer readers to Paper-I.

Though most of the intrinsic absorption features in the source spectrum are well fitted with two warm absorbers, there are residual absorption line-like features in the spectral regions of 19.0-21.0 Å, 17.0-17.5 Å and 13.5-13.8 Å each with individual significance of 1.7-6.9 sigma (Fig. 1). To check for the consistency of these residuals and to confirm that these are not the artifacts of co-adding spectra, we inspect individual Ark 564 HETGS-MEG spectra from the 2008 observations. After fitting the data with continuum, Galactic and two-phase WAs model (Model-A) as noted above, the same residuals are found in the same spectral region in all the three observations (Fig. 2). In the following sections, we discuss the identifications, statistical significance and possible origin of these absorption lines.

3. Discovery of the high velocity outflows

3.0.1. Identification of the Absorption Lines

The strongest residual features in the co-added spectrum are present at 19.805 ± 0.005 Å, 19.845 ± 0.001 Å and 20.250 ± 0.011 Å (observed frame, Fig. 1). Errors refer to 1 σ confidence level throughout the paper, unless noted otherwise. First we try to identify the features at 19.805 ± 0.005 Å and 19.845 ± 0.001 Å. There is no known instrumental feature near

these energies (Chandra Proposers' Observatory Guide, or POG). The z=0 lines are already included in the model; there are no permitted lines with oscillator strength > 0.0001 at wavelength of either 19.805, 19.845 or 20.250 Å. At the observed energies, there would be no intervening system with $z_{WHIM} < z_{Ark}$ 564 from the warm-hot intergalactic medium (WHIM; Mathur et al. 2003, Nicastro et al. 2005). Therefore, we assume that these absorption lines are intrinsic to the source. We identify these lines based on a combination of chemical abundance and line strength (the oscillator strength f > 0.1). Given the detected wavelength and assuming a very broad range of inflow/outflow velocities -60,000 to 60,000 km s⁻¹ the likely candidates are O VII $K\beta$ at $\lambda_{rest} = 18.62$ Å, O VIII $K\alpha$ at $\lambda_{rest} = 18.96$ Å, Ca XVII $k\beta$ at $\lambda_{rest} = 21.56$ Å, Ca XVII $k\beta$ at $\lambda_{rest} = 21.45$ Å and O VII $k\alpha$ at $\lambda_{rest} = 21.602$ Å. Considering that argon and calcium are orders of magnitude less abundant than oxygen, and because O VII $K\alpha$ with inflow velocities of 0.019c and 0.021c, or O VII $K\alpha$ with outflow velocities of 0.105c and 0.103c.

To distinguish between the two possibilities of inflow and outflow, we search for possible associations of other lines such as O VIII $k\beta$, O VII $k\beta$, O VII and/or O V . We do not find any possible association for inflows. The absorption feature at $20.25 \pm 0.01 \mathring{A}$ corresponds to O VI $k\alpha$ ($\lambda_{rest} = 22.037\mathring{A}$) at the outflow velocity of 0.103c. We also found an absorption feature at $17.08 \pm 0.01 \mathring{A}$ with 1.7σ significance, corresponding to O VII $k\beta$ line at the outflow velocity of 0.105c. The detection of O VI $K\alpha$ and O VII $K\beta$ lines at the same velocity favors the outflow scenario.

3.0.2. Statistical Significance of Absorption Lines

To investigate whether the apparent absorption lines could be due to statistical fluctuations, we calculate the probability of detection of individual lines due to random statistical fluctuation. First we fit the lines with negative gaussians of fixed width 0.001Å, folding through the detector response and leaving other parameters (centroid and amplitude) free to vary. The addition of three gaussian lines at 19.805 ± 0.005 Å, 19.845 ± 0.001 Å and 20.250 ± 0.011 Å to our previous model (Model A) improves the fit statistic by $\Delta \chi^2 = 120, \Delta d.o.f. = 6$, an improvement at more than 99.99% confidence by the F-test (Bevington and Robinson 1992). We measured the equivalent width (EW) of lines at 19.805 Å, 19.845 Å and 20.250Å of 15.6 ± 2.5 mÅ, 16.5 ± 2.4 mÅ and 16.1 ± 3.4 mÅ respectively. Errors are at 1 sigma confidence level and are calculated using the "projection" command in Sherpa. Thus the three absorption lines are detected with 6.2σ , 6.9σ and 4.7σ significance respectively. Further using the Gaussian probability distribution, we looked for the probability of detec-

tion of these lines by chance. For the lines detected with 6.2σ , 6.9σ and 4.7σ significance, the probability of false detection is 2.8×10^{-10} , 2.6×10^{-12} and 1.3×10^{-6} respectively. There are, however, 4801 wavelength bins in our spectrum (these are all the wavelength bins in the wavelength range of 1-25 Å, beyond which data is of poor quality. The rest of the HETG spectrum was never used in any of the analysis, even in Paper I). Therefore the probability of finding absorption lines at the observed significance anywhere in the spectrum due to random statistical fluctuations is 0.0001%, 0.000001% and 0.6% respectively.

For the outflow system with velocity of 0.105c, we also detected the O VII K β line with chance probability of 0.04. Thus the combined chance detection probability of detecting both O VII K α and O VII K β lines is $4 \times 10^{-6}\%$. Similarly for the other system (at 0.103c) the combined chance detection probability of detecting both O VII K α and O VI K α is $4 \times 10^{-8}\%$. Thus we conclude that the detected absorption lines are not due to random statistical fluctuations, but are signatures of outflows.

3.0.3. Other Absorption lines at blueshift of $\approx 0.1c$

After confirming the high detection significance of O VII and O VI absorption lines identified with high velocity outflows, we searched the entire spectrum for other ionic transitions at the similar blueshifts. We detected two other absorption features at 17.35 ± 0.01 and 13.63 ± 0.01 Å with EWs of 11.8 ± 2.7 and 5.0 ± 1.7 mÅ (Fig. 3, Table 1). The feature at 13.63Å is also detected in the HEG spectrum. The tentative identification of these features are O VIII $K\alpha$ and Fe XVII $K\alpha$ at outflow velocities $(0.110 \pm 0.001)c$ and $(0.114 \pm 0.001)c$ respectively. The outflow velocities of these systems are close to each other and to the above reported systems of high velocity outflow.

4. Photoionization Modelling of High Velocity Outflows

To determine the physical properties of the absorber responsible for producing highly blueshifted absorption features and to check for the physical consistency of line identifications, we modeled the negative Gaussian lines in the above fits with a photoionization model based on the code PHASE (Krongold et al. 2003). The PHASE code models self-consistently more than 3000 X-ray bound-bound and bound-free transitions imprinted by photoionized absorbers, given the ionization state of the absorber, its column density, and its internal turbulent motion. The parameters of the code are: 1) the ionization parameter of the absorber $U = \frac{Q(H)}{4\pi r^2 n_e c}$, where Q(H) is the rate of H ionizing photons, r is the distance to the

source, n_H is the hydrogen number density and c is the speed of light; 2) the equivalent hydrogen column density N_H ; 3) the outflow velocity of the absorbing material V_{out} , and 4) the micro-turbulent velocity V_{turb} of the material. The abundances have been set at the Solar values (Grevesse et al. 1993).

A PHASE component (which we call system 1) with ionization parameter of $logU = -0.60 \pm 0.38$ and column of $logNH = 19.8 \pm 0.2$ cm² successfully reproduced the O VII K α and K β lines at ~ 19.805 and ~ 17.08 Å, at the blueshift of 32365 \pm 335 km s⁻¹ with respect to source (Fig. 4). The addition of PHASE component "System 1" to Model-A significantly improves the fit ($\Delta\chi^2 = 15, \Delta\ d.o.f. = 4$). According to F-test, the absorber is present at confidence level of 99.87%. A second low ionization parameter component (we call this system 2) with $logU = -1.2 \pm 0.21$ is also required to fit other high velocity outflow absorption features such as of O VII and O VI , with outflow velocity of 31735 \pm 275 km s⁻¹ (Fig. 4). Inclusion of this component improves the fit ($\Delta\chi^2 = 31, \Delta\ d.o.f. = 4$) over the previous model at a confidence level of more than 99.999%, according to F-test. The best fit PHASE parameters are reported in Table 2 and the best fit model are shown in Fig. 5. Successfully modeling the residuals with two PHASE components robustly confirms the presence of high velocity outflows in Ark 564.

5. Discussion

5.1. Comparison with Models

Several models suggest radiation pressure as the driving mechanism to produce the typical low velocity outflows observed in Seyfert galaxies (Proga & Kallman 2002; 2004, Krolik & Kriss 1995, Dorodnitsyn et al. 2008). But in radiation driven disk-wind models outflow velocities depend on AGN luminosity and these models cannot account for relativistic velocities in AGNs with Seyfert-type luminosities (Barai et al. 2011). Relativistic outflows in the UV have been detected only in most luminous broad absorption line quasars. Indeed, Laor & Brandt (2002) and Ganguly et al. (2008) have shown that the maximum outflow velocity is proportional to $L^{0.6}$, close to what is expected from radiation pressure driven winds. Observations of relativistic outflows in X-rays in moderate luminosity AGNs therefore pose intriguing puzzles; as shown in figure 6, the relativistic outflows (from Tombesi et al. 2010) lie above the Ganguly et al. line of maximum velocity. The relativistic outflow we find in Ark 564, shown as a \star in figure 6, also lies above the line. Thus these high velocity outflows appear not to be driven by radiation line pressure mechanism.

King (2010) shock wind models produce winds with velocities $v \sim 0.1c$, but in quasars accreting at Eddington limits. In this model a high velocity ionized outflow collides with the ISM of the host galaxy, losing much of its energy by efficient cooling resulting in a strongly shocked gas.

In the multi-dimensional Monte Carlo simulations of AGN disk-wind models of Sim et al., outflow velocities are *assumed* to be at escape velocities, and not from ab-initio calculations (Sim et al. 2008; 2010). It is possible that magnetic fields are important for launching such winds, as in jets (Sim et al. 2010); observations of relativistic outflows in moderate luminosity AGNs provide valuable constraints to the theory of magneto-hydrodynamic winds.

5.2. Mass and Energy Outflow Rates

In Paper-I we have showed that the typical warm-absorbers in Ark 564 ($v_{out} \approx 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) are not energetic enough to provide the effective feedback as required by theoretical models. Here we estimate the total mass and kinetic energy outflow rate of relativistic outflows in Ark 564 to determine if these can possibly be important for feedback. To measure the mass and energy outflow rates, we must know the location of the absorber which is measured only in a few sources (e.g. NGC 4051, Krongold et al. 2007); we do not know the location of the high velocity outflow in Ark 564 either.

It is often assumed that the observed outflow velocity is the escape velocity at the launch radius r: i.e. $r = \frac{2GM_{BH}}{v_{out}^2}$. There is no justification for this assumption, as shown by Mathur & Stoll (2009). Nonetheless, making this assumption provides us with a lower limit on the absorber location. Romano et al. (2004) determine the central black hole mass of Ark 564 to be $M_{BH} \leq 8 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$. This leads to the minimum distance of the absorber of $r_{min} = 6.4 \times 10^5$ pc. For a sherically symmetric outflow, the mass outflow rate is $\dot{M}_{out} = C_f M v_{out} (\Delta r)^{-1}$ where M is the mass in the outflow in a shell of thickness Δr and C_f is the covering fraction. Therefore $\dot{M}_{out} = 4\pi C_f r^2 N_H m_p v_{out} (\Delta r)^{-1}$. Substituting Δr with r_{min} and $C_f = 1$ gives us an upper limit on the mass outflow rate which is $\dot{M}_{out}(r_{min}) \leq 1.4 \times 10^{21} \text{g s}^{-1}$. The corresponding kinetic energy outflow rate is $\dot{E}_K = \frac{1}{2} \dot{M}_{out} v_{out}^2$, so we again have an upper limit $\dot{E}_K \leq 4.5 \times 10^{39} (r/r_{min}) \text{erg s}^{-1}$. This is a tiny fraction of the bolometric luminosity of Ark 564, approximately $\dot{E}_K/L_{bol} \sim 0.001\%$. This upper limit is much smaller than the ratio of $\dot{E}_K/L_{bol} \sim 5\%$ expected if the outflow is to be important for feedback (Silk & Rees 1998, Scannapieco & Oh 2004, di Matteo et al. 2005).

The King (2010) model for the quasi spherical shock wind produces a velocity gradient in which higher ionization elements are present at higher velocities. In such a scenario it is possible that the column density we measure is not the column of the entire outflow, but only that of the shells producing the observed absorption lines; the total column could be much higher. We can estimate the mass loss rate of such a outflow by using the expression from King et al (2010): for a solid angle $4\pi b$, mass loss rate is $\dot{M}_{out} = 4\pi bnr^2 v_{out} m_p$, where n and m_p are the particle density and proton mass respectively. Mass conservation in the flow requires the product nr^2v to be constant. As $nr^2 = \frac{Q(H)}{4\pi Uc}$, the conservation of mass in a radial outflow yields a linear correlation of velocity and ionization (Pounds & Vaughan 2011). For the range of $b \sim 0.3 - 1$, the mass outflow rate and kinetic power of the outflow varies from $(1.3-4.3) \times 10^{25}$ g s⁻¹ and $(0.6-1.9) \times 10^{44}$ erg s⁻¹ respectively. These estimates are close to the bolometeric luminosity of the source (18%-60%), much larger as required by feedback models.

5.3. Comparison with other high velocity outflows

Before this work, the high velocity outflows were detected mostly with Fe xxv and/or Fe xxvI absorption lines in hard X-ray band (§1). In handful of quasar such as PG11211+143 (Pounds et al. 2003a), PG0844+349 (Pounds et al. 2003b) and MR 2251-178 (Gibson et al. 2005) high velocity outflows were detected at soft X-ray energies, but these detections were either based on absorption lines of low statistical significance or have strong contamination from the halo of our Galaxy.

Here we present the detection of high velocity outflows in Ark 564; this is the first time such outflows are found in the soft X-ray band in a Seyfert galaxy. We firmly establish the presence of high velocity WAs first through identifying number of ionic transitions at similar velocity and further successfully modeling these features with photoionization models. Papadakis et al. (2007) also detected an absorption line at 8.1 keV in the low resolution CCD spectra of Ark 564 and assuming that this line corresponds to Fe xxvI, they suggested the presence of highly ionized, absorbing material of $log N_H > 23$ cm⁻² outflowing with relativistic velocity of 0.17c. If the presence of such a feature and its identification are correct, then this is suggestive of a velocity gradient with higher charge states such as Fe xxvI at higher velocity. Interestingly, the two "other" lines we identified in Ark 564 (§3.0.3) also have somewhat higher velocity than System 1 and System 2 and have higher charge states. This is exactly as expected from the models of King (2010).

6. Conclusion

We report on the discovery of high velocity outflows in the NLS1 Galaxy Ark 564. These absorbers are identified through multiple absorption lines of O VI, O VII $K\alpha$, O VII $K\beta$, O VIII and Fe XVII at blueshift of $\sim 0.1c$ (with respect to the source) detected in the Chandra HETG-MEG spectra. The two observed velocity components are well fitted with two photoionization model components. Both absorbers have low ionization parameter of $\log \xi = -0.60 \pm 0.38$ and -1.2 ± 0.21 and low column densities of $\log N_H = 19.8 \pm 0.2$ and 20.0 ± 0.3 cm⁻² and are required at high significance of 99.87% and > 99.99% respectively.

Without knowing the location of the absorber, its mass and energy outflow rates cannot be well constrained; we find $\dot{E}(outflow)/L_{bo}$ ranging from < 0.001% to 60% using different assumptions. Determining the absorber location is therefore very important for providing meaningful constraints. This can be achieved through studying the response of absorption lines to continuum variations. This is the first time that absorption lines with ultra-high velocities are unambiguously detected in the soft X-ray band. The presence of outflows with relativistic velocities in AGNs with Seyfert-type luminosities is hard to understand and provides valuable constraints to models of AGN outflows. Finding such relativistic outflows in several other AGNs and measuring their mass/energy outflow is therefore important.

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Table 1. Absorption lines identified with relativistic outflows in the HETGS Spectrum of Ark 564.

Ion	${\stackrel{\lambda_{obs}}{\mathring{A}}}$	λ_{rest} Å	v_{out} km s ⁻¹	EW mÅ
O vi	20.25	22.05	30964 ± 355	16.1 ± 3.4
O VII $K \alpha$	19.84	21.60	31042 ± 362	16.5 ± 2.4
O VII $Klpha$	19.80	21.60	31588 ± 362	15.6 ± 2.5
O VIII	17.35	18.97	32112 ± 410	11.8 ± 2.7
O VII $K\beta$	17.08	18.63	31634 ± 416	4.0 ± 2.4
Fe xvii	13.62	15.02	34951 ± 316	5.0 ± 1.7

Table 2: Model parameters for Relativistic Outflows

Parameter Parameters for Relativistic Outriews	System 1	System 2
Log U	-0.60 ± 0.38	-1.2 ± 0.21
$Log N_H ({ m cm}^{-2})$	19.8 ± 0.2	20.0 ± 0.3
$V_{Turb} \; (\mathrm{km} \; \mathrm{s}^{-1})$	85 ± 14	92 ± 12
$V_{Out} \; (\mathrm{km \; s^{-1}})$	32365 ± 335	31735 ± 275
$\Delta \chi^{2\mathrm{a}}$	15	31

^a Improvement in χ^2 to fit after adding model component

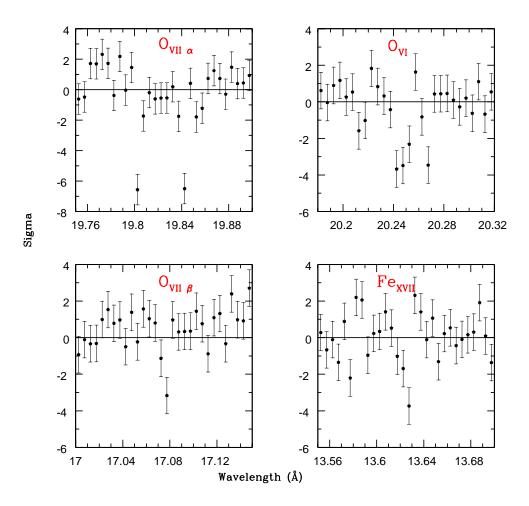


Fig. 1.— Residuals of data:Model-A fit to the coadded spectrum of Ark 564, in the observer frame (Model-A: Two component WA model plus continuum, emission lines and local absorption, from Paper-I). The possible transitions due to high velocity WAs are indicated with red labels.

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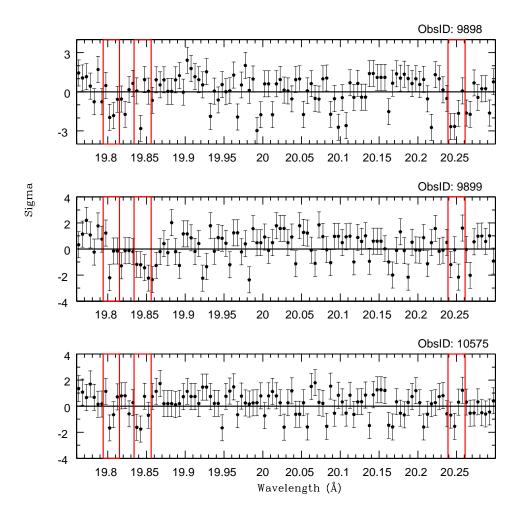


Fig. 2.— Residuals of data:Model-A fit to individual spectra from the 2008 observations. The red boxes mark the regions near 19.804, 19.844 and 20.24Å where the strongest lines are detected in the combined spectrum. We see that the same lines are detected in the individual spectra as well.

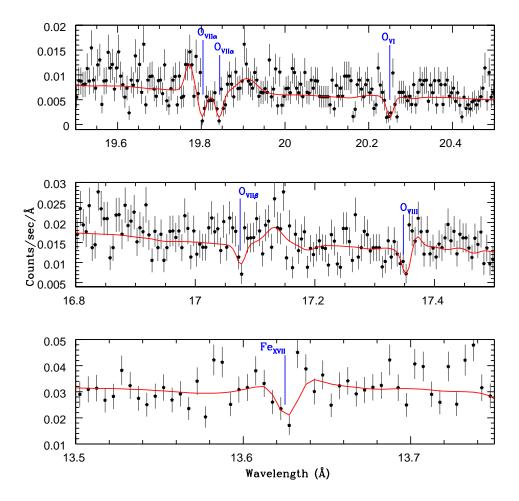


Fig. 3.— The Ark 564 MEG spectrum fitted with Model-A plus six Gaussian lines. The line identifications of high-velocity outflow components are indicated with blue labels. The spectrum is presented in the observer frame.

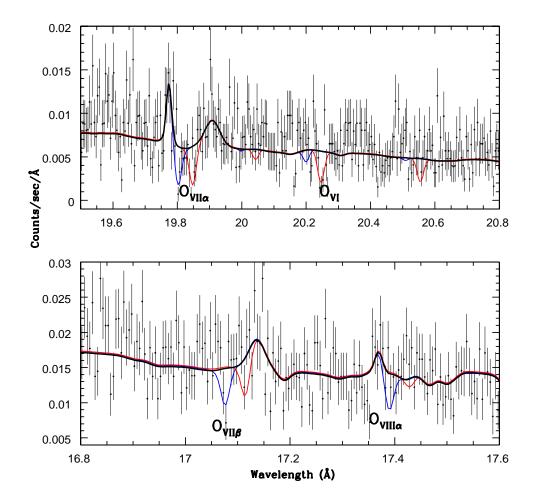


Fig. 4.— The high velocity outflow absorption features fitted with two PHASE components of outflow velocity of 0.103c (red) and 0.105c (blue). The ionic transitions are labeled in black. The spectrum is presented in the observer frame.

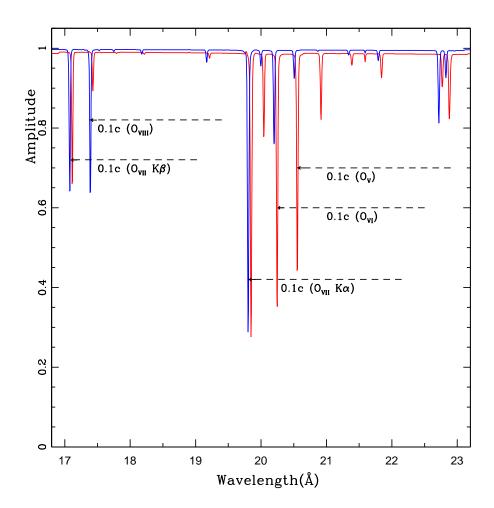


Fig. 5.— The two component PHASE model, one with $v_{out} = 0.105c$ (blue) and other with $v_{out} = 0.103c$ (red), showing the enormous blueshift of absorption lines with respect of source redshift.

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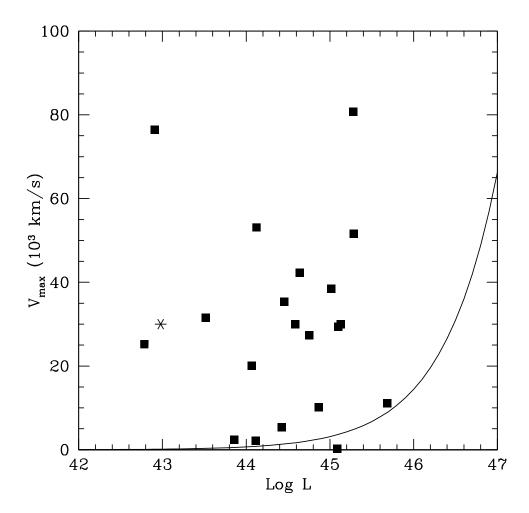


Fig. 6.— Outflow velocity plotted as a function of AGN luminosity. The solid line represents the upper envelope relation from Ganguly et al. (2008) modified to plot the bolometric luminosity instead of the 3000Å luminosity. The points are for the relativistic outflows in Tombesi et al. (2010). Ark 564 ultra-fast outflow is shown by a star (this work). It is clear that these ultra-fast outflows are not confined within the Ganguly et al. envelope.